

SENATE No. 1787

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Mr. Panagiotakos

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the passage of the accompanying bill:

An Act relevant to peaceful funeral services.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
Mr. Panagiotakos	First Middlesex
Kevin J. Murphy	18th Middlesex
David M. Nangle	17th Middlesex
Thomas A. Golden, Jr.	16th Middlesex

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE SENATE, NO. S00996 OF 2007-2008.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Nine

AN ACT RELEVANT TO PEACEFUL FUNERAL SERVICES.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 42A, of Chapter 272 of the Mass General Laws, as appearing in the 2002
2 Official Edition, is hereby amended by adding at the end thereof the following new section;-

3 Whoever pickets, loiters or otherwise creates a disturbance within five hundred feet of a funeral
4 home, church, temple, cemetery, or mortuary shall be punished by fine of not more than one
5 thousand dollars or by imprisonment for not more than one year in a house of correction or both.

6 Definitions:

7 1. “Funeral”, for the purpose of this section means, the ceremonies, processions and memorial
8 services held in connection with the burial or cremation of the dead; and

9 2. “Pickets”, for the purpose of this section, means protest activities engaged in by a person or
10 persons within five hundred (500) feet of a funeral home, church, temple, cemetery, or mortuary
11 within one hour prior to, during and two (2) hours following the funeral.